

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 103990

62

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103990

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO'S MEETING WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

1. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO PAID CALL ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY INGERSOLL MAY 2. LHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR HAHM.

2. NAC AND UNGA: AS IN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH BUFFUM
AND HABIB, LHO STRESSED IMPORTANCE ROKG PUTS ON DEFEATING
NORTH KOREAN BID FOR ENTRY INTO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.
LHO SAID THAT WE MUST BEGIN PREPARATIONS NOW TO DEFEAT
NORTH KOREAN BID AT LIMA NAC. LHO ALSO STRESSED NEED
FOR EARLY AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR AGREED
STRATEGY WITH REGARD TO THE UNC AND THE KOREAN QUESTION
AT THE NEXT GA.

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PAGE 02 STATE 103990

3. LHO AND HAHM RAISED NEED FOR SECURING CORE GROUP OF
FRIENDLY NON-ALIGNED GOVERNMENTS WHO WOULD HOLD OUT TO THE
BITTER END IN REJECTING ANY QUOTE CONSENSUS UNQUOTE AT

THE LIMA CONFERENCE PERMITTING ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREA TO THE NAC. HAHM SAID THAT OUR SIDE WOULD NEED AS MANY AS FIFTEEN COUNTRIES TO RESIST THE PRESSURES FOR NORTH KOREAN ADMITTANCE WHICH WILL COME FROM THE RADICAL

NON-ALIGNED STATES.

4. INGERSOLL INDICATED THAT AS LHO KNEW, WE ARE WORKING WITH THE ROKG ON THE NAC PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE GOVERNMENTS WE HAVE AGREED UPON, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER SUGGESTIONS WHICH ROKG MIGHT HAVE WITH REGARD TO COUNTRIES WE MIGHT APPROACH. LHO SAID THAT AFTER HIS RETURN TO SEOUL MOFA WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL NAMES OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO USG APPROACHES RE NAC. LHO ALSO MENTIONED ROKG CONCERN ABOUT UPCOMING OAU MEETING AND NEED FOR PLANNING ON THAT.

5. KIM IL SUNG VISIT AND NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS:
INGERSOLL ASKED LHO FOR HIS VIEWS ON KIM IL SUNG'S PEKING VISIT. DID LHO THINK IT HAD A MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE?
LHO COMMENTED THAT IN NEAR TERM HE DID NOT THINK THAT KIM'S VISIT TO PEKING WOULD LEAD TO MILITARY ACTION BY NORTH. IF NORTH KOREA UNDERTOOK ANY RISKY MAJOR MILITARY ACTIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDOCHINA, THIS WOULD PUT SEVERE STRAINS ON THE CHINESE AND SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THE US. RATHER FOR THE PRESENT IT APPEARS THAT NORTH KOREA IS TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE ROKG INTERNATIONALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY. KIM IL SUNG HOPES TO ISOLATE SOUTH KOREA AND, BY ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, PUT SOUTH KOREA ON THE DEFENSIVE IN THE UN AND OTHER FORUMS. AT THE SAME TIME KIM IL SUNG IS ALSO WATCHING THE KOREAN INTERNAL SITUATION, HOPING IT WILL DETERIORATE.

6. HOWEVER, LHO SAID IT IS NECESSARY THAT KOREA HAVE THE MILITARY MEANS TO PRESENT A STRONG DEFENSIVE FRONT. HE SAID THAT THE WILL OF THE SOUTH KOREANS TO DEFEND
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PAGE 03 STATE 103990

THEMSELVES IS QUITE CLEAR. HOWEVER, HE WANTED TO IMPRESS ON US THE NEED TO COMPLETE THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE ROKG WOULD HAVE THE NECESSARY MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

7. INGERSOLL SAID WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO FULFILL THE MODERNIZATION PLAN OBJECTIVES. LHO SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE, INDEED, THERE IS A STRENGTHENING OF OUR RESOLVE TO MEET OUR MUTUAL SECURITY OBLIGATIONS, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EVENTS OF INDOCHINA.

8. AT THE SAME TIME INGERSOLL NOTED THAT WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. WE ARE DOING OUR

BEST IN EXPLAINING KOREAN NEEDS AND THE SECURITY SITUATION TO CONGRESS. ALTHOUGH KOREAN DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE INTERNAL MATTERS, WE BOTH MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THESE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES DO IMPINGE ON CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR NEEDED MUTUAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.

9. LHO AND HAHM ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROBLEMS WHICH KOREA FACES WITH REGARD TO CONGRESS. LHO INDICATED ROKG IS TRYING VERY HARD AND HAS SHOWN PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES OF TORTURE. LHO SAID THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE US, PARTICULARLY CONGRESS, RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM THAT THE ROKG FACES IS THE CONTINUING THREAT TO ITS SECURITY.

10. IN HIS CLOSING COMMENTS, INGERSOLL AGAIN CONVEYED TO LHO HIS ASSURANCE OF OUR STAUNCH SUPPORT FOR THE ROG AND OF OUR INTENTION TO MEET OUR MUTUAL SECURITY OBLIGATIONS.

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